



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

November 8, 2001

Rod Nelson
Assistant Manager
Oak Ridge Operations Office
DOE
Oak Ridge Operations Office
200 Administration Road
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Re Path Forward for Resolving Post-Closure Issues at the Weldon Spring site.

Dear Rod:

It was a pleasure to meet with you and Ms. Pam Thompson recently about the Weldon Spring site. This letter is intended to follow up on that meeting and help begin the logistics of a process toward resolution of the remaining issues at the Weldon Spring site.

As my September 27th letter indicated, we believe it is critical for developing a workable long-term stewardship plan which will require the active and ongoing involvement of (1) Department Of Energy's (DOE) new organization responsible for stewardship (e.g., DOE's Grand Junction Office), and (2) DOE's Office of Science and Technology. Accordingly, involvement of these elements is necessary to begin constructive discussions on the future of the Weldon Spring site. These offices each serve a critical role beyond the purview of the Weldon Spring office or Oak Ridge Operations. We believe DOE should act quickly to identify specific individuals to represent the putative post-closure stewardship organization (e.g., Donna Bergman-Tabbert, Grand Junction Office) and an appropriately empowered representative of the DOE Science and Technology Office (e.g., Mr. Jim Wright, Subsurface Focus Area Lead at Savannah River site). Of course, we also value the continued input of the local Weldon Spring Office, who serves as the current technical lead for the cleanup, and provides the invaluable institutional memory for technical sites issues.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate our appreciation for the hard work and good faith you personally, as well as your staff and contractors, have put forth toward a successful cleanup. All of you deserve enormous credit for this achievement, and the fact that we are on the brink of completing the cleanup and contemplating long-term stewardship issues is because of your skill and efforts. We were pleased to join with the Association of Engineering Geologists in congratulating you for earning recognition as the "Outstanding Environmental and

Integrity and excellence in all we do

Mr. Rod Nelson
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Engineering Geological Project." Our present concerns about the post-closure issues do not detract from the success of the cleanup effort at Weldon Spring.

But, it is now time to move on, and plan for life after completion of cleanup. We realize there are a multitude of issues on your collective "punch list" for completing a project as large and complex as the Weldon Spring site. With this in mind, we hope the management approach we have suggested, combined with those included in our September 27, 2001, letter can provide a constructive path forward for smooth transition from cleanup to stewardship.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, or have your staff call Mr. Ron Kucera, Deputy Director at 573-751-3195 to begin making arrangements for a meeting, or if you have questions. I am sending a similar letter to Ms. Pam Thompson at the Weldon Spring site. I look forward to working with you and your staff to continue the progress we have made in cleaning up the legacy of the Manhattan Project and the Cold War. Thank you for your attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Original signed by Stephen A. Mahfood

Stephen A. Mahfood
Director

SM:rgp

c: Assistant Secretary Jessie H. Roberson, Department of Energy, EM-1
Mr. Michael Sanderson, Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII
Mr. Gerald Boyd, Department of Energy, EM-50
Mr. Jim Fiore, Department of Energy, EM-30
Mr. Randall Scott, Department of Energy, Acting EM-40
Ms. Donna Bergman-Tabbert, Department of Energy, Grand Junction Office
Weldon Spring Citizens Commission